

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of operating a gas-discharge lamp, ~~such as a fluorescent lamp~~
(10), wherein the lamp is operated at least in part with a dc voltage component,

characterised in that

a sequence of repetitive voltage pulses ~~are~~ is superimposed on the lamp dc voltage component during the running operation of said lamp.

2. (Currently Amended) A method of operating a gas-discharge lamp, ~~such as a fluorescent lamp~~
(10),

characterised in that

the lamp is selectively operated in the upper brightness range with a dc voltage, with dc voltage and superimposed voltage pulses ~~or~~ and with a high-frequency ac voltage while it is operated in the lower brightness range with dc voltage and superimposed repetitive voltage pulses ~~or~~ and only with repetitive voltage pulses, during the running operation of said lamp.

3. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 or claim 2 characterised in that the voltage pulses are each sinusoidal and decaying in configuration.

4. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 or 2 characterised in that the voltage pulses have a repetition rate during the running operation of the lamp of at least 100 Hz and a natural frequency which is higher than the repetition rate.

5. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 characterised in that to reduce the brightness of the lamp the dc voltage component is reduced.
6. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 or 2 characterised in that to reduce the brightness of the lamp the repetition rate of the voltage pulses is reduced.
7. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 or 2 characterised in that to reduce the brightness of the lamp the voltage ~~or~~ and the energy of the voltage pulses are selectively reduced.
8. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 or 2 characterised in that to reduce the brightness of the lamp the natural frequency of the voltage pulses is increased.
9. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 or 2 characterised in that the lamp is repeatedly subjected to a pole reversal.
10. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 or 2 characterised in that the cathode of the lamp is heated, wherein the heating power is only selected to be so great that an increase in the heating power does not cause any further reduction in the running voltage of the lamp.
11. (Currently Amended) A power supply unit (11) for ~~carrying out the method according to claim 1 or 2~~ the operation of a gas-discharge lamp, wherein the lamp is operated at least in part with a dc voltage component, characterised in that there ~~are~~ is provided ~~or connected~~ a running voltage source (13) for supplying the dc voltage and a pulse source (12) for ~~supplying the~~

superimposing a sequence of repetitive voltage pulses on said dc voltage during the running operation of said lamp.

12. (Currently Amended) A power supply unit according to claim 11 characterised in that there are provided ~~or connected~~ means (15.1, 15.2) for heating ~~the~~ lamp electrodes (16.1, 16.2) of said lamp, means (17) for pole reversal of the lamp and/or means (14) for measuring the lamp running voltage.

13. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 5, characterised in that the dc voltage component is reduced to zero.

14. (New) A method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said gas-discharge lamp is a fluorescent lamp.

15. (New) A power supply unit according to claim 11, wherein said gas-discharge lamp is a fluorescent lamp.